

# STATE NEWS

About three o'clock Wednesday morning the barn of Mrs. Janie Woods, about three miles north of town, was struck by lightning and totally destroyed by fire together with all its contents. The barn contained a valuable mule, good buggy, about 150 bushels of corn, 120 bundles of fodder, 15 bushels of peas and all Mrs. Woods' seed cotton and the loss falls heavy on her.—Perry Herald.

A recent Tallahassee dispatch says: Hon. Nathan P. Bryan, chairman of the State Board of Control, has been attending a joint session of his board with the State Board of Education. The board of control had let a contract for the building for the Institute of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, at St. Augustine. The building is to cost \$67,427 with an additional sum of \$2,600 for a heating plant, and is to be completed by Nov. 15.

Wednesday night of last week the Datona postoffice was burglarized. The thief or thieves blew open the safe and carried off stamps to the value of \$3,000 and between \$600 and \$700 in cash. They made a clean get-away, and there is absolutely no clue as to their identity. The fact that the robbery had taken place was not known until the opening hour yesterday morning, the safe having been carefully re-closed and all traces of the depredations removed.

Key West is rendering a good account of itself, financially speaking. Four years ago, the city government was deeply in debt and city paper was worth 50 cents on the dollar. Now the city has paid all its obligations and has \$50,000 in its treasury, without any intervening increase of taxes. Key West has evidently been enjoying excellent municipal government during the past four years—that is the only explanation of this extraordinary showing.—Tampa Tribune.

It is usually in side shows one looks for such freaks as five-legged calves, but the real article in that line is now in the pasture of the Lee-Parsons Cattle Co. at Southport, twelve miles from this city. This freak is three months old, is fully developed, and can run as fast as any other calf. The fifth leg grows out between the two hind legs and reaches to between three and four inches of the ground, and is supplied with a hoof the same as are the others.—Kissimmee Gazette.

Deputy Wynne, of Newberry, has made another valuable catch by arresting a negro who is wanted by the authorities of Levy county on the charge of murder. George Johnson and Smith Coleman became involved in a difficulty at Port Inglis on January 29th, when Johnson succeeded in shooting his man and killing him, afterwards fleeing

from the scene. He had not been apprehended until Deputy Wynne made the arrest Tuesday. Johnson freely confessed his guilt to the deputy, but claims that he was justified in the killing, as will be proven when the proper time comes at the next term of circuit court in Levy county. The authorities of Levy county have been notified, and in the meantime the negro will be held pending their arrival Gainesville Sun.

The question of a new court house now confronts us—just what plans are to be made the Times is unable to say; but there seems to be no doubt that there will be a special election called for the purpose of considering the proposition to remove the county seat. There will probably be several towns in the field for the honors. We believe the quicker we can build the better it will be for all concerned as the present facilities are unsafe for keeping the county records and very inconvenient to the county officials.—Sumter County Times.

Two years on each count was the sentence imposed yesterday by Judge Beggs of the criminal court, upon Will Jones, W. J. Shea and J. L. Ray, charged with and who pleaded guilty to robbing the poor boxes in St. Michael's and St. Joseph's Catholic churches and also the poor box in Christ church and robbing Hanson & Son's store, there being four counts against the defendants each one received a sentence of eight years. The costs in each case amounted to \$10, for which forty days additional was added to each sentence.—Pensacola Journal.

If some one had told us a month ago that this section would produce ripe peaches in February we would have thought him a fit subject to be tapped for the similes, but when Mr. Herbert Fleming brought to the Valley Gazette office on Wednesday last several deliciously ripe peaches that he had just picked from the trees on his famous island in the lake, we were convinced that the doings hereabouts are beyond us. The peaches were as finely flavored as we have eaten and were of very good size. Peaches in February in Kissimmee! Where is the place that can say as much.—Kissimmee Gazette.

Mr. William Bunch, an ex-Confederate veteran, and native of South Carolina, died at his home at Cashen Bend in this county on February 4, 1909, at the age of sixty-five years. Among those who waited on Mr. Bunch during his illness was an ex-Union soldier, a good friend of the deceased, who when death came closed the eyelids down and otherwise prepared the body for burial, showing that the differences of forty odd years ago have all been wiped away and the brotherhood of men from North, South, East and West reunited.

Mr. Bunch was a brave Confederate soldier and was wounded and taken prisoner of war in front of Petersburg in 1863, and strange to say, the ex-Union soldier referred to above was among the troops that made the capture at that time. After all these years it so came around that they were together at the former's death and the latter conducted the services at the grave. The deceased was a devout member of the Baptist church and exhibited his Christian character to the last.—Fernandina Record.

Hon. Frank Adams, who recently moved from Jasper to Jacksonville, has bought a large amount of the stock of the Southern Drug Co. and has been elected president of the company. With ample equipment of character, brains and capital, it is easy to guess that Mr. Adams will soon become a leading factor in the commercial life of the state metropolis.

Judge Wills of this circuit has rendered his decision denying Truby Os-teen and W. A. Bexley bail in the case against them charged with the murder of W. H. Moreland. Through the efforts of the attorneys of these young men the judge was required to hold a special session, hear evidence in the case and render his decision as to whether it was a bailable case. Every effort possible was put forth by the defendants' attorneys to secure their release on bail. By the above decision it will be seen that there is no possible chance of getting the young men out until they stand trial, which will come up at the next term of court to convene in May.—Gainesville Sun.

H. L. Setzer, a merchant of High Springs, has been arrested by Sheriff Ramsey on a charge of selling whiskey in that town and will be given his preliminary hearing here before County Judge Mason. Setzer had already been arrested by the marshal of High Springs, who, it is alleged, found two barrels of bottled goods in his possession, one being filled with pints and the other with quarts. It is alleged that Setzer had been dealing in the liquid for some time and a close watch has been kept on his place of business until the time of his arrest, which was done by the city officers of High Springs on last Monday, but for unknown reasons the case has been put off, with the result that a warrant was sworn out here for the man and the sheriff went after him.—Gainesville Sun.

Says the Tampa Tribune of Friday: With about forty members in attendance, the Florida Retail Hardware association is holding a meeting at the Tampa Bay hotel. The present meeting is not a regular convention but a sort of informal gathering of the association for the purpose of improving and perfecting the organization. The association was organized at Jacksonville a few months ago, and at that time, it was decided to hold a special meeting at Tampa during the progress of the state fair for the purpose of completing certain details which could not be handled at Jacksonville. M. E. Gruber of Miami is president of the association and presided at yesterday's session, which was held in the music room of the hotel. W. K. Jackson of Lakeland, the secretary, is also in attendance. The other officers are B. F. Watts, Leesburg, vice-president; D. L. Thomas, Tampa, treasurer; C. F. Smedley, Jacksonville, R. E. McNeil, Live-Oak, M. W. Bates, Quincy, executive committee.

Closely manacled and guarded by a deputy sheriff, F. H. Cox, charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff Everett E. Johns, of Nassau county, near Fernandina, about four years ago, sat in the union depot this morning, says the Jacksonville Metropolis of Saturday. The deputy was en route to Fernandina with his prisoner who was arrested at Port Tampa on Wednesday by a private detective who has been working on the case for several months. Cox was arrested by the detective, so the officer states, because of certain remarks he made in connection with the case. The murder of Deputy Sheriff Johns some four years ago was a cold-blooded plot in which several parties were suspected of having a part. Johns had previously been sheriff of Bradford county and was known to have many enemies among the lawless class to whom he was a terror. He was known all over the State as a fearless man who would brave anything in the performance of his duty as he saw it. A stranger came in the office of the sheriff one day and got a warrant for a man whom he accused of stealing a fish net. He agreed to take Deputy Sheriff Johns to a place near Fernandina where he could find the accused man. Johns left with the

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### FAMILY CONTENT

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stranger who gave his name as both A. Brown and John Register. Both of these names are alleged to be the aliases of Cox. Johns failed to return in a reasonable length of time and a search was made for him. His body, pierced by a bullet, was found in the sand hills some distance from Fernandina. From that day to this the search for his murderer has been kept up

Crushed beneath the wheels of a moving Seaboard Air Line switch engine, while his playmates looked on with horror, Wallace Shore, 13 years of age, lost his life near the corner of Railroad avenue and Church street shortly after 3 o'clock Friday afternoon. With a crowd of boy companions, among the number being his brother, Fred, the lad was engaged in the dangerous practice of jumping on and off a moving train. To the other lads the accident which caused the death of their little friend will be an object lesson, whose horror will prove more of a warning than words of parents or police, who have been trying to break up the practice for many weeks. The lad was a son of H. F. Shore, a plasterer, who lives at 915 East Duval street. The mother of the boy has been a victim for some time of heart disease, and the news of the accident, given to her as gently as possible by kind friends and her husband, who was called from his work in another section of the city, may prove a fatal shock.—Jacksonville Metropolis, 14th.

Acting upon a tip received from John Simpson, the safe blower arrested yesterday police raided a hobo camp in the western section of the city and arrested nine white men and all of them were docketed at police headquarters on charges of vagrancy. The safe blower informed the authorities that a well organized gang of hobos were camping far west of the city in the woods. Lieutenant Roach, Detective

Crawford, Policeman John Foster, Deputy Sheriff Frank Jones were on the tip of the juggernaut and within a mentioned locality they arrested a white man. The man was taken to the quarters as a vagrant. Many of the men had been arrested before and sent to the municipal court. Stephen Jones knows every hobo camp in this city and he will be able to give the authorities some valuable information when riding the county of the vagrant class of visitors.—Times-Lantern.

A dispatch from Lenoir, Va., dated last Sunday says: An accident which caused the death of one who died of the injury of a white boy and three negroes occurred yesterday afternoon at the Starke Lumber Company's mill railway, about two miles south of here. They had started on the railroad with a load of logs and were going at fast clip when the dummy engine jumped the track, causing the train to it to run against the dummy, striking it bottom-side up, pinning the body of E. Y. Stokes to the ground by the neck. He was released as much as possible, but too late to save his life as he spoke only once or twice and then expired. Albert Jennings, a white boy who was on the dummy, was killed about the legs, but not serious. One of the three negroes injured, Bart Jackson, was more seriously hurt than the rest, but will not probably prove fatal. Mr. Stokes had been a team employe of the mill for about 10 years. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn his loss.

Milton, Fla., Feb. 14. Robert King was shot and instantly killed Saturday in Milton by Frank Foster, Johnson's restaurant. The tragedy was caused by an old grudge. The jury rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Suwannee Democrat, Feb. 14, 1909.

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